banks is reviewed on an ongoing basis and the consolidated report is laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament. The consolidated report on the working of public sector banks for the year ended 31st March, 1993 was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on 16th August, 1994.

Functioning of Banks in Residential Areas

5321. SHRI HIPHEI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of branches of Public Sector banks are functioning in residential areas of country;

(b) if so, the criteria for getting accommodation and payment of charges in such cases with terms and conditions;

(c) whether large number of branches of Public Sector banks are functioning in Commercial areas of country;

(d) if so, the criteria for getting accommodation and payment of charges in such cases with terms and conditions;

(e) whether criteria, mode of payment and terms and conditions for getting accommodation in residential and commercial areas of country by branches of Private Sector Banks are same; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (c) As per the information received from public sector banks, their branches are functioning, both in commercial as well as residential areas, in the country.

(b), (d) and (f) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had issued guidelines in October, 1993 which are to be followed by commercial banks while acquiring accommodation on lease/rental basis for their use. In terms of these guidelines, the banks are required to issue public notification in newspapers for obtaining offers from interested persons as per bank's requirements. The offers so received are scrutinised by the Selection Committee formed by the bank. Considering the competitive offers and depending upon the suitability of the accommodation, the premises are approved. Rent is fixed in relation to the prevailing market rates within the ceiling prescribed by RBI. Further more as per RBI's guidelines, the period of lease may be for a minimum of 5 years with option for further 5 years in favour of the banks with reasonable increase in the rental. The lease agreements may also provide for a clause for further renewal for the period by mutual consent of the banks and the landlords. Proposals for acquisition of accommodation on lease/rental basis beyond the limits prescribed by RBI would require prior approval of the Bank's Board of Directors/Management Committee/Internal Committee of the Executives.

(e) RBI guidelines are applicable to private sector banks also.

PSU-Disinvestments

5322. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the second round of PSU-disinvestments, held in January, 1995, has by and large flopped and resulted in raising hardly Rs. 600 crore against the target to Rs. 2,000 crore; and

(b) if so, the reasons and circumstances to which it is attributable and how the deficit is to be made good?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) While the first round of disinvestment in Oct, 94 had attracted 3212 bids of which 514 bids (16%) had been accepted, in the 2nd round held in Jan. 95, there were 556 valid bids out of which 209 (37%) had emerged successful. While Govt. mobilised a total amount of Rs. 2230 Crores in the Ist round, the mobilisation was Rs. 388 Crores (provisional) in the 2nd round. The nature of PSEs offered for disinveatment and the number of shares offered were also not uniform in both the rounds Taking into account the shortfalls during the previous years, the target realisation from disinvestment for 1995-96 has been set as Rs. 7000 Crores.

Disinvestment of PSUs

5323. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision on the second instalment of disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken to prevent scam-like transactions in the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No decision has yet been taken on the disinvestment proposals for the current year. [illegible] is proposed to be ensured that the disinvestment will be made through a transparent procedure within the parameters of the approval obtained from the Cabinet.

Revival of Forward Trading in the Stock Markets

5324. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the speculative misadventures of badla with revival of forward trading in stock markets, exposing millions of small investors to misadventures of stockers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken and being taken by Government to stop such misadventures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Government are aware of the possibilities of unhealthy market practices arising out of forward trading in securities in stock exchanges without adequate and effective safeguards for protecting the interests of small investors.

(b) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has been established, inter alia, for effectively regulating the stock market and stock brokers, and for protecting the interests of the investors. SEBI is also keeping a constant watch on the trading in Stock Exchanges for ensuring the safety of the market.